The Committee will be chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, Delhi with Chief Minister of Delhi as Vice-chair and the following members;

Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development
Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests
Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi
Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Government of NCT of Delhi
Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Jal Board
Vice Chairman; Delhi Development Authority

(b) The quality of water in Yamuna river has not shown the desired improvement, particularly in Delhi, due to enormous increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period. Implementation of the river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and continuous activity based upon the estimated pollution loads. Due to ever-increasing population, leading to increased pollution load, and gap in the availability of financial resources, there is persistent divergence between the pollution load tackled and the actual pollution load.

(c) and (d) To prevent increasing pollution in the Yamuna river, two Action Plans have been launched by the Government of India. The Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I was started in April, 1993 in the three States of UP, Delhi and Haryana covering 15 towns at an estimated cost of Rs. 715 crore. The project with funding from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) was completed in February, 2003. A total of 269 schemes of pollution abatement were completed including 38 sewage treatment plants having additional treatment capacity of 753.25 million litres per day (mld) of which 401.25 mld in U.P., 322 mld in Haryana and 30 mld in Delhi.

YAP Phase-II was started in December, 2004 also with JBIC funding. The project was approved for the three States of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 624 crore. The major items of work to be implemented under YAP Phase-II include rehabilitation of trunk sewers and works of sewage treatment plants in Delhi, construction of sewage treatment plants and rehabilitation of sewer lines/rising mains in U.P., interception and diversion of sewer lines and improvement in the efficiency of existing sewage treatment plants in Haryana.

In addition to the above Action Plan, the State Governments of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have also taken up non-sewerage, sewerage and sewage treatment works out of their own plan funds.

Sea-worthiness of ships and boats

*255. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government expect an increase in the number of ships and ocean plying vessels using Indian ports over the next ten years;

(b) whether Director-General of Shipping is the sole maritime authority to determine "sea-worthiness" of all vessels flying the Indian flag or using Indian ports as a base;

(c) the manner in which the Director-General, Shipping determines whether a large ship or fishing boat is "sea-worthy";

(d) whether it is a fact that there are complaints on the un-predictable pattern of behaviour of the personnel of Director-General, Shipping in making inspections and suggestions; and

(e) the steps proposed to assess the work of all surveyors on their pattern of work?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the Government of India has also delegated under the Merchant Shipping Act, the work of survey, certification and inspection for ascertaining the seaworthiness of vessel to classification societies.

(c) The criteria for determining the sea-worthiness condition of a large ship or fishing boat is prescribed in Merchant Shipping Rules framed under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

(d) and (e) Complaints received from time to time, against surveyors are immediately investigated by the Director General of Shipping and appropriate disciplinary/vigilance action is taken. The assessment of work done by the surveyors is undertaken through superiors and controlling officers. In addition, the feedback from the industry is taken into account in assessing their performance.

Telephone connections by 2010

*256. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set a target of 250 million telephone connections by 2007 and 500 million by 2010;

(b) whether the pace of providing telephones is sufficient to meet these targets and whether Government propose to introduce more operators for achieving it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for all the operators to make use of all technologies for achieving spectral efficiency and thereby requiring less spectrum which would help in introducing more competition; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATON TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Against the target of 250 million telephone connections by December 2007, we have reached about 233 million connections by 31st July 2007.